



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1286, **Agenda Item #:** 60.

3/25/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Watershed Protection Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$4,445,825 in grant funds from the Texas Water Development Board; and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Watershed Protection Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer in and appropriate \$4,445,825 for Atlas 14-based flood studies and floodplain mapping for various watersheds.

Lead Department

Watershed Protection Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$4,445,825 is available from the Texas Water Development Board. A City funding match of \$2,225,000 is required and available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Watershed Protection Department's Capital Budget. Fiscal notes are attached.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

On December 17, 2020, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved a grant application from the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department (WPD) for a fiscal year 2021 Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) grant. The total grant award is \$4,445,825. This grant further supplements two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) grants for fiscal years 2019 and 2020. The funding from these three grants will be combined with funding from WPD to complete flood studies and floodplain mapping based on Atlas 14 rainfall data for all watersheds that impact the City.

The floodplain studies to be initiated as part of the grant agreement with the TWDB (referred to as the Central Texas Regional Floodplain Studies) will be within the city's jurisdiction and neighboring jurisdictions. The studies will be a part of an overall effort to restudy floodplains throughout Austin and will continue the work begun with the fiscal year 2019 FEMA CTP grant funding. The floodplain studies will be updated based on the Atlas 14 rainfall and new topographic data and will be initiated in fiscal year 2021. These studies will result in new floodplain models and maps for all streams within City of Austin jurisdictional area. The studies may include all or portions of the following work elements: surveying; engineering hydrologic and hydraulic analyses; analysis of levee structures; floodplain mapping for fully developed and existing watershed conditions; flood insurance rate map production; public meetings and outreach; and development of associated documentation.

The Watershed Engineering Division will manage the flood study projects. Consultants from the 2020 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping Engineering Services Rotation List will perform the engineering and mapping work for the flood studies.

The grant funding will be used in combination with capital funds from the WPD Drainage Utility Fee allocated

under the Department's five-year plan to fund the studies.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety